

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN PARM

SUBJ: INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ): EXPERTS REPORT

1. UK MISSION (LOGAN) INFORMED US JUNE 13 THAT UN SECRETARIAT (CORRADINI) HAS PROVIDED UK WITH REVISED DRAFT OF SECTION OF EXPERTS REPORT DEALING WITH UK AND SUBSECTION, WHICH WOULD APPEAR UNDER "UNITED STATES" HEADING, DIEGO GARCIA. LOGAN NOTED THAT UNDER REVISED DRAFT REPORT'S ORGANIZATION DIEGO GARCIA DISCUSSION IS NO LONGER UNDER "NUCLEAR WAR" SUBSECTION. LOGAN DOES NOT HAVE FULL TEXT OF REVISED REPORT; WE OF COURSE HAVE NOT SEEN NEW FULL TEXT EITHER.

2. CORRADINI HAS INVITED UK COMMENTS ON THE REVISIONS. LOGAN TELLS US THAT HE IS RECOMMENDING THAT UK IN DUE COURSE TELL CORADINI THAT IT WILL NOT COMMENT ON THE REVISED DRAFT.

3. LOGAN TELLS US THAT HE EXPECTS UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS NEW DRAFT WITH ACDA OFFICERS.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECTION ON DIEGO GARCIA WHICH LOGAN HAS PASSED TO US: QUOTE:

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51. THE BRITISH ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA 7) IS AN UNINHABITED CORAL ATOLL 13 MILES LONG AND UP TO 4 MILES WIDE SITUATED ALMOST AT THE CENTER OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM SIGNED IN 1966 AND 1972, PERMITTED THE UNITED STATES TO BUILD A U.S. \$19 MILLION NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION ON THE ISLAND FOR JOINT USE. CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN MARCH 1971 AND THE STATION WENT INTO OPERATION IN THE SPRING OF 1973. A RECENT NRE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SPEND \$29 MILLION ON IMPROVING THE FACILITIES OF THE ISLAND.

7) THE ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA, IN CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, WAS ORIGINALLY ADMINISTERED AS PART OF MAURITIUS. WHEN MAURITIUS WAS GRANTED INDEPENDENCE, DIEGO GARCIA AND TWO OTHER ATOLLS IN THE ARCHIPELAGO WERE BOUGHT BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FROM MAURITIUS FOR L3 MILLION. THEY ARE PART OF "THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY" (BIOT) WHICH INCLUDES THE ISLANDS OF ALDABRA, FARQUHAR, DESROCHES (DETACHED FROM THE SEYCHELLES GROUP) AND THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO. THE 1966 ANGLO-AMERICAN AGREEMENT MADE THE ISLANDS COMPRISING THE BIOT AVAILABLE TO BOTH COUNTRIES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES FOR A PERIOD OF 50 YEARS.

52. DIEGO GARCIA HAS A GOOD HARBOUR AND A SITE FOR A MAJOR AIRFIELD. THE UNITED STATES NAVY IS UNDERTAKING DREDGING OF THE HARBOUR TO CREATE A TURNING BASIN THAT WILL BE 2,000 BY 6,000 FEET AND ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE SUBMARINES AND AIRCRAFT CARRIERS. THE UNITED STATES HAS CONSTRUCTED AN 8,000-FOOT LONG CORAL RUNWAY ON THE ISLAND AND UNITED STATES C-130 AND C-141 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN USING THE AIRSTRIP. AT PRESENT THERE IS A CONTINGENT OF BETWEEN 200 AND 300 AMERICAN SERVICEMEN AT THE BASE. THE UNITED STATES HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO INCREASE THIS CONTINGENT TO BETWEEN 500 AND 600 MEN; TO LENGTHEN THE AIRFIELD RUNWAY FROM 8,000 TO 12,000 FEET, WHICH WILL MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR USE BY STRATEGIC BOMBERS AND KC-135 REFUELING AIRCRAFT, TO BUILD MORE FUEL STORAGE TANKS; TO EXPAND THE AIRFIELD PARKING AREA; TO IMPROVE EXISTING QUARTERS (TO ACCOMMODATE 609 PERSONS) AND TO DEEPEN THE LAGOON SO THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE A DOZEN SHIPS RATHER THAN THE CURRENT TWO OR THREE. THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO THE FACILITIES OF THE BASE FOR THEIR

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OWN SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT. UNQTE.
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